

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to precisely recite the fiber component of the fiber suspension used in the present invention and to ensure consistency of claim terminology. Specifically, the fiber component of the fiber suspension has been recited as consisting essentially of cellulose fibers. This recitation is supported by the description on pages 4 and 5 of pulps useful in the invention and the description on page 8, lines 6-10.

The claims as amended are patentable over the prior art cited in the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections made in the Final Office Action dated March 16, 2004. Each of these rejections relies on Miyamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,674,621 ("Miyamoto"), as the primary reference. Miyamoto, however, cannot be properly modified as proposed in the Final Action because Miyamoto discloses synthetic papers which are produced from fibers "largely or entirely composed of hydrophobic synthetic fiber" (see Advisory Action dated September 2, 2004, page 2). The fibers "largely or entirely composed of hydrophobic synthetic fiber" of Miyamoto are excluded from the method of the present invention.

For this reasons and the reasons explained in the response filed August 16, 2004, to the Final Action, the claims of the present application are patentable. A notice of allowability of

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the claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited.

Applicants note that the reference identified in the Final Action and the Advisory Action as "Ashton" is not identified in the Final Action. Applicants respectfully request that this reference be made of record in the file and that a Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) listing the Ashton reference be included with the next communication from the Office.

In the event any fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-1833.

Respectfully submitted,

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